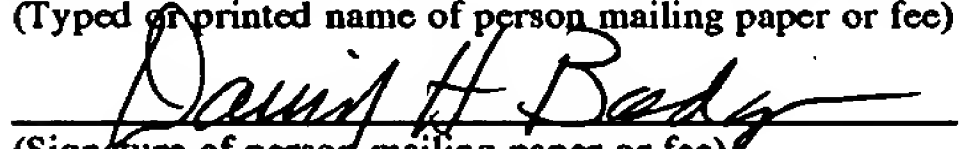


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PATENT
Case No.: 970/045

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
Robert D. Brand) Art Unit: 3201
Serial No.: Unknown) Examiner: W. Donald Bray
Filed: Herewith)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS)
FOR RETAINING A FLITCH)
FOR CUTTING)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of this application, please cancel claims 1-13 and 19-33.
Please amend claims 14 and 15 as follows.

*Entered by
amdt #1*